

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends Claim 13 to clarify the invention and cancels Claims 9-11 and 16-25. Claims 1-8, 12-15, 26 and 27 are currently pending in this application, with Claims 1-8, 26 and 27 being withdrawn. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the rejections should be withdrawn and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 9 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,526,169 to Kikuchi *et al.* ("Kikuchi"). As mentioned above Claim 9 has been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi *et al.* as applied to Claim 9. As mentioned above Claim 25 has been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10, 13 AND 16-24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 10, 13 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi as applied to Claim 9 and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,866,406 to Minakata *et al.* ("Minakata"). As mentioned above Claims 10 and 16-24 have been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection with respect to Claims 10 and 16-24 is now moot.

For at least the following reasons, the Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to Claim 13. The foregoing amendment to Claim 13 clarifies that the "insulator covers the ridge portion and at least parts of the electrodes, formed on the top surface." (emphasis added). The amendment is supported by Figure 22B. In contrast, Figures 1a and 1b of Minakata disclose only that the top of the ridge portion 2 is covered by an insulating silicon dioxide layer 3. As described by Minakata, the electrodes 4 are provided on each side of the laminate opposite to each other. Col. 8, ll. 36-38. Figures 1a and 1b of Minakata do not illustrate parts of electrodes 4 formed on the top surface that are covered by an insulating silicon dioxide layer 3. None of the figures and corresponding sections of the specification of Minakata show otherwise. Minakata does not disclose or suggest an insulator that covers

the ridge portion and at least parts of the electrodes, formed on the top surface, as required by Claim 13. Accordingly, Claim 13 is patentable over Kikuchi as applied to Claim 9 and in view of Minakata.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action the Examiner allowed Claims 12, 14 and 15.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

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